

### Exercise 1: Kullback-Leibler Divergence and model misspecification

Consider a laplace-distributed random variable  $X$  with unknown parameters  $\mu_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\sigma_0 > 0$ . In other words:  $X \sim \text{LP}(\mu_0, \sigma_0)$  with the following density function:

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{2\sigma_0} \exp\left(-\frac{|x - \mu_0|}{\sigma_0}\right)$$

Unfortunately, the model is misspecified and  $X$  is assumed to be normally distributed with a set of parameters  $\theta = (\mu, \sigma^2)$ , meaning that  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$f_\theta(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)^2\right)$$

Calculate the set of parameters  $\theta$  that minimizes the Kullback-Leibler Divergence  $D_{KL}(g\|f_\theta)$ .

*Hint:* Use the fact that for  $X \sim \text{LP}(\mu_0, \sigma_0)$ , the following properties apply:  $\mathbb{E}(X) = \mu_0$  and  $\text{Var}(X) = 2\sigma_0^2$ .